REMARKS

Applicant respectfully submits the following Preliminary Amendment with the accompanying divisional application, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b). Additionally, Applicant respectfully asserts priority to the original filing date of May 21, 1999 and submits herein an amendment to the specification noting related Application Serial No. 09/316,442.

STATUS OF CLAIMS 11-16, 19 and 20

Applicant respectfully submits, for the Examiner's consideration, claims 11-16, 19 and 20 as originally presented in the prior non-provisional Application Serial No. 09/316,442, as filed on May 21, 1999. Applicant respectfully submits that the originally presented claims stand unamended in the present case.

CONCLUSION

Allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested. If there are any questions or comments regarding this response, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at 312-609-7970.

Dated: December 8, 2003

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Respectfully submitted,